











### Other Evidence of Active Infection

An infection of type "A" virus was reported in the State of Jalisco, December 21. Evidence indicated that the infection was several weeks old in some animals at the time it was first reported. A total of 73 animals involved in the outbreak were slaughtered, some of which were strays.

These circumstances illustrate the necessity for constant and repeated inspections of all susceptible animals as well as immediate investigation of suspicious herds.

No further outbreaks have been identified in any area since December.

### Preparations Underway For New Phase of Program

The Joint Commission is preparing to carry out plans announced earlier to terminate mass vaccination as soon as it may be done with practical safety. The Commission expects to be approaching this point about May 1 when the third vaccination will be virtually complete and the fourth vaccination will have covered most of those areas in which the disease has been most concentrated in the past. However, the Commission will continue at least some vaccinations for several months.

In line with these plans vaccine production in Mexico will be halted as soon as there is enough vaccine available to complete the planned schedule, in addition to a stockpile of about 7,500,000 doses for use in emergencies.

Now more than ever, the special emphasis of the eradication program is being placed upon inspection. Inspection brigades are being increased and inspectors are redoubling their efforts. The utmost importance is placed upon vigilance in spotting any indication of active infection plus quick action in stamping it out through the accepted methods of quarantine, slaughter, disinfection and testing.

### Cannot Predict Border Opening

In response to many inquiries about opening the border to importation of cattle from Mexico in the near future, the Department calls attention to the provisions of the Tariff Act of 1930 which specifically prohibit the importation into the United States of any cattle, sheep, other domestic ruminants or swine and of fresh, chilled, or frozen beef, veal, mutton, lamb, or pork from any country where foot-and-mouth disease exists.

The Mexico-United States border cannot be reopened until a determination has been made by the Department that the virus causing the disease no longer exists in any part of Mexico. When the immunity built up by the mass vaccination has had time to wear off, it may be expected that sporadic outbreaks will occur. Therefore, consideration cannot be given to the opening of the border until a sufficiently long period of time has elapsed after the last known outbreak has been stamped out and thorough inspections have been made to determine that the disease actually no longer exists. Accordingly, the time when the border may be opened is so exceedingly indefinite that no forecast can reasonably be made. It can be said only that such action does not appear at all possible in the near future.

### Experiments With Vaccine Continue

Recent tests have indicated that it might be possible to advance the expiration date for use of vaccine to from 12 to 15 months after production. Heretofore, vaccine was not considered practicable for use unless it could be injected within 7 to 9 months after manufacture, because its potency had not been proved beyond that point. These tests are being continued in an effort to determine the length of time vaccine can be held in storage before it is used.

Also being continued are the intensive studies of techniques for propagating the virus of foot-and-mouth disease upon an artificial medium in the laboratory. Basically the procedure being investigated follows that developed originally in the Netherlands. Minced epithelium---or the outer skin---from the tongues of recently slaughtered normal cattle is placed in a synthetic nutrient fluid. The virus is added and allowed to incubate and multiply.

The goal of this work is to develop procedures for the preparation of vaccine from such artificially propagated virus. This would materially simplify vaccine production and make it less expensive.

### Canned Mexican Beef

Since the beginning of the program in August 1947 approximately 218 million pounds of canned beef products have been purchased in Northern Mexico. At the present time there are no purchase contracts in effect. Approximately 150 million pounds have been sold. The major portion of these purchases have gone to Bizone Germany, United Kingdom, International Refugee Organization, Italy, Austria, Trieste and other Western European countries. Stocks now on hand total approximately 68 million pounds.

### Meeting of Industry Advisory Committee

The Industry Advisory Committee on Foot-and-Mouth Disease met in Albuquerque, New Mexico on February 19 with officials of the Commission and the Bureau of Animal Industry. General Johnson described recent progress in the work in Mexico and Dr. Simms and members of his staff discussed other phases of the battle to keep foot-and-mouth disease out of the United States and the plans for additional research. Committee members attending the meeting were: Albert K. Mitchell of New Mexico, the Chairman, Mr. J. Elmer Brock of Wyoming, Mr. R. E. Boyle of California, Mr. E. Ray Cowden of Arizona, Dr. C. U. Duckworth of California, Mr. Fred Earwood of Texas, Mr. Horace H. Hening of New Mexico, Mr. Wayland Hopley of Iowa, Mr. W. S. Moscrip of Minnesota, Mr. Carlos E. Ronstadt of Arizona, and Mr. C. E. Weymouth of Texas.